

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 04286 081715Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----043754 081717Z /50
O 081641Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7849

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 4286

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, CASC, CO
SUBJ: STARR KIDNAPPING: GUARACAS RELEASED

REF: BOGOTA 4250 AND 4251

1. MAY 7 EDITION OF "EL TIEMPO" CARRIED ARTICLE IN WHICH GUARACAS' DEFENSE ATTORNEY WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT GUARACAS HAD BEEN RELEASED FROM PRISON APRIL 28. THE ATTORNEY STATED THAT GUARACAS HAD BEEN UNDER A 20 YEAR SENTENCE FOR MURDER BUT THAT HE SECURED HIS RELEASE BY A LOCAL JUDGE IN THE TOWN OF CHAPARRAL ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE CRIME HAD ACTUALLY BEEN COMMITTED BY A DIFFERENT PERSON WHO HAPPENED TO HAVE THE SAME LAST NAME. THE ATTORNEY SAID THAT GUARACAS HAD RESUMED HIS "HABITUAL ACTIVITIES". HE ALSO STATED THAT THE COMMUNICATION FROM THE FARC PROPOSING AN EXCHANGE OF GUARACAS FOR STARR WAS THEREFORE APOCRYPHAL, COULD BE CONSIDERED A MANEUVER OF INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES AND THAT THE "NEGOTIATION" COULD NOT TRANSPIRE.

2. WE WERE UNABLE TO CONTACT ANY GOC AUTHORITIES YESTERDAY (SUNDAY) WHO HAD ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THIS REPORTED DEVELOPMENT BUT THIS MORNING CHIEF OF ARMY INTELLIGENCE, COLONEL MOLANO TOLD US THAT HE HAD BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM THAT GUARACAS WAS IN FACT FREED ON APRIL 28. WE ARE STILL
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TRYING TO DEVELOPE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH HE WAS RELEASED. AMONG OTHER THINGS, AMBASSADOR HAS CALL IN TO FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO, WHO IS EXPECTED TO BE BACK IN BOGOTA TOMORROW MORNING.
ASENCIO

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, PRISONER EXCHANGE, POLITICAL PRISONERS, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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